



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

24707

October 4, 2001

Reply To
Attn Of: ECL-113

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Warren E. Bergholz, Jr.
Acting Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1563

Re: INEEL, CERCLA Section 104(e) Request for Information

Dear Mr. Bergholz:

This letter responds to your letter dated September 25, 2001 in which you request a fifty-two (52) day extension to respond to the information request issued to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 104 (e) of the Comprehensive Environmental, Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e).

As you are aware, EPA's information request dated August 22, 2001, allowed DOE thirty (30) days from receipt to respond. DOE's desire to take nearly three (3) months to respond seems unnecessary given the limited scope of the information request. EPA is confident that DOE will be able to provide records responsive to the information request within a more reasonable time frame and therefore extends the deadline until October 25, 2001. We expect to see a good faith effort on the part of DOE to provide such comments by that date.

With respect to the issues raised in your letter regarding EPA's information request issued to Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (BBWI), EPA will respond directly to BBWI given that EPA is in receipt of a letter from BBWI dated September 25, 2001, concerning such issues.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup